MULTI-PANEL ELECTRONIC DEVICE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] The present disclosure claims the benefit of Provisional Application No. 61/095,225, filed Sep. 8, 2008, which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety and to which priority is claimed.

FIELD

[0002] The present disclosure is generally related to multipanel electronic devices, and more particularly, to user interfaces used with multi-panel electronic device.

DESCRIPTION OF RELATED ART

[0003] Advances in technology have resulted in smaller and more powerful computing devices. For example, there currently exist a variety of portable personal computing devices, including wireless computing devices, such as portable wireless telephones, personal digital assistants (PDAs), and paging devices that are small, lightweight, and easily carried by users. More specifically, portable wireless telephones, such as cellular telephones and internet protocol (IP) telephones, can communicate voice and data packets over wireless networks. Further, many such portable wireless telephones include other types of devices that are incorporated therein. For example, a portable wireless telephone can also include a digital still camera, a digital video camera, a digital recorder, and an audio file player. Also, such wireless telephones can process executable instructions, including software applications, such as a web browser application, that can be used to access the Internet. As such, these portable wireless telephones can include significant computing capabilities.

[0004] Although such portable devices may support software applications, the usefulness of such portable devices is limited by a size of a display screen of the device. Generally, smaller display screens enable devices to have smaller form factors for easier portability and convenience. However, smaller display screens limit an amount of content that can be displayed to a user and may therefore reduce a richness of the user's interactions with the portable device.

SUMMARY

[0005] In a particular embodiment, an electronic device is disclosed that includes a first panel having a first display surface to display a graphical user interface element associated with an application. The electronic device also includes a second panel having a second display surface. The first display surface is separated from the second display surface by a gap. A processor is configured to execute program code including a graphical user interface. The processor is configured to launch or close the application in response to user input causing a movement of the graphical user interface element in relation to the gap.

[0006] In another particular embodiment, a method for displaying an image includes receiving a user input to move an application icon at a first display surface of an electronic device. The electronic device includes a second display surface that is separated from the first display surface by a gap. The method includes determining that the application icon is to be moved beyond an edge of the first display surface into the gap based on the user input. An application associated with the application icon is launched in response to the appli-

cation icon being moved beyond the edge of the first display. At least a portion of a user interface for the application associated with the application icon is displayed at the second display surface.

[0007] In another particular embodiment, a method for displaying an image includes displaying a plurality of application icons at a first display surface of an electronic device and displaying an application interface window for an application at a second display surface of the electronic device. The first display surface is separated from the second display surface by a gap. User input to move at least a portion of the application interface window at the second display surface is received. The method includes determining that at least a portion of the application interface window is to be moved beyond an edge of the second display surface into the gap based on the user input. The application interface window is closed in response to at least the portion of the application interface window being moved beyond the edge of the second display surface.

[0008] Other aspects, advantages, and features of the present disclosure will become apparent after review of the entire application, including the following sections: Brief Description of the Drawings, Detailed Description, and the Claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] FIG. 1 is a diagram of a first illustrative embodiment of an electronic device:

[0010] FIG. 2 is a diagram of an illustrative embodiment of the electronic device of FIG. 1 in a fully folded configuration; [0011] FIG. 3 is a diagram of an illustrative embodiment of the electronic device of FIG. 1 in a thumbing configuration; [0012] FIG. 4 is a diagram of an illustrative embodiment of the electronic device of FIG. 1 in a travel clock configuration; [0013] FIG. 5 is a diagram of a first illustrative embodiment of the electronic device of FIG. 1 in a fully extended configuration;

[0014] FIG. 6 is a diagram of a second illustrative embodiment of the electronic device of FIG. 1 in a fully extended configuration;

[0015] FIG. 7 is a diagram of an illustrative embodiment of the electronic device of FIG. 1 in a video conferencing configuration;

[0016] FIG. 8 is a block diagram of a second illustrative embodiment of an electronic device;

[0017] FIG. 9 is a diagram of a third illustrative embodiment of an electronic device;

[0018] FIG. 10 s a partial cross-sectional diagram of the electronic device of FIG. 9:

[0019] FIG. 11 is a diagram of an illustrative embodiment of the electronic device of FIG. 9 in an angled configuration; [0020] FIG. 12 is a partial cross-sectional diagram of the

electronic device in the angled configuration of FIG. 11; [0021] FIG. 13 is a diagram of an illustrative embodiment of the electronic device of FIG. 9 in a folded configuration;

[0022] FIG. 14 is a partial cross-sectional diagram of the electronic device in the folded configuration of FIG. 13;

[0023] FIG. 15 is a diagram of a fourth illustrative embodiment of an electronic device;

[0024] FIG. 16 is a diagram of the electronic device of FIG. 15 in a travel clock configuration;

[0025] FIG. 17 is a diagram of the electronic device of FIG. 16 in a fully extended configuration;